



Pond Possibilities

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MANCHESTER URBAN PONDS RESTORATION PROGRAM

SECOND ANNUAL MANCHESTER EARTH & POND FESTIVAL HELD AT LIVINGSTON PARK

On Saturday June 22, the Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program (UPRP), Manchester Conservation Commission, and Manchester Recycling Program sponsored the city's 2nd Annual Earth and Pond Festival. Despite the threatening weather, approximately 200 people attended the event to learn about Manchester's urban ponds and a myriad of other environmental issues. Manchester has seven urban ponds which are the focus of the Urban Ponds Restoration Program. These unique ponds provide various uses for Manchester, including boating, swimming, fishing, birding and valuable wildlife habitat. Some other issues addressed by event organizers were alternative energy, non-point source pollution, invasive exotic species, and recycling. Many environmental organizations were represented at the festival. The Crystal Lake Preservation Association, Dorrs Pond Preservation Society, NH DES, US EPA, Manchester Water Works, Manchester Recycling Program, and Amoskeag Fishways among others were all present and provided information on environmental programs.



Dorrs Pond. Photo by Ron Johnson



Suzanne, Andrew and Harry Ntapolis enjoy the sun at the Pond Festival wearing t-shirts bearing Andrew's (age 10) design.

As the rain began, so did guided trail walks around Dorrs Pond. Participants learned a lot about pond-side ecology even though they got very wet. Jen Drociak of the Manchester Conservation Commission led the trail walk and pointed out the area's native and exotic plant life. Other activities included face painting, henna body art, balloon sculptures and clowning around with Patches the Clown. Live entertainment was provided by the Buskers, a bluegrass band from New Hampton, NH. The performance had to be cut short due to heavy rain. Raffle drawings were held by US EPA and the UPRP with the grand prize being a kayak provided by All Outdoors of Manchester. Other prizes were donated by C.R. Sparks, MS Mount Washington, Jane & the Beanstalk, Fratello's, Cactus Jack's/T-Bones, The Puritan, Outback Steakhouse, and Chalifour's.

POND PROJECTS ARE PRIORITIZED

Earlier this year, members of the Manchester Conservation Commission met with the Urban Ponds Restoration Coordinator to discuss pond project “prioritization” within the city. Each of the seven ponds was discussed at length with regards to potential water quality improvements, outreach/education opportunities, recreational opportunities, land preservation opportunities, and other management tasks. The result is a clearly defined set of goals and prioritized projects within each of the aforementioned categories. The following is a summary of proposed and prioritized projects at each pond. Please be advised that the following summary is only a list of ideas generated from several brainstorming sessions. Though an attempt will be made to implement the most important projects, not all projects will be implemented.

CRYSTAL LAKE

- ❖ **Goal(s):** To maintain swimmable/fishable water quality standards.
- ❖ **Water Quality Improvements:** (1) Beach parking lot runoff/drainage improvements. (2) Chemical & mechanical control of *Phragmites*. (3) Corning Road runoff/drainage improvements.
- ❖ **Outreach/Education Opportunities:** (1) Shoreline planting workshop. (2) *Phragmites* education. (3) Milfoil prevention.
- ❖ **Recreational Opportunities:** (1) Beach use enhancement.
- ❖ **Land Preservation Opportunities:** (1) Land acquisition in watershed.
- ❖ **Other:** Develop a comprehensive watershed management plan.

DORRS POND

- ❖ **Goal(s):** To restore fishable/swimmable water quality standards.
- ❖ **Water Quality Improvements:** (1) Tributary II runoff/drainage improvements. (2) Tributary III runoff/drainage improvements. (3) Wetland function study in the north end.
- ❖ **Outreach/Education Opportunities:** (1) Duck feeding. (2) Invasive species. (3) Fertilizer & home actions.
- ❖ **Recreational Opportunities:** (1) Parks & Recreation trail improvement project. parkland on west side and possibly designate as “Town Forest.”

MCQUESTEN POND

- ❖ **Goal(s):** To secure conservation easements/ownership of prime wetland areas.
- ❖ **Water Quality Improvements:** (1) Pavement reduction. (2) Shoreline restoration.
- ❖ **Outreach/Education Opportunities:** (1) Build kiosk. (2) Invasive species. (3) Dumpster & parking lot runoff.
- ❖ **Recreational Opportunities:** (1) Boardwalk at north end.
- ❖ **Land Preservation Opportunities:** (1) Secure conservation easements.

MAXWELL POND

- ❖ **Goal(s):** To assess feasibility of dam removal. To assess habitat enhancement.
- ❖ **Water Quality Improvements:** (1) Dam removal study. (2) Upstream sedimentation of Black Brook. (3) Manchester Gardens apartment complex runoff/drainage improvements.
- ❖ **Outreach/Education Opportunities:** (1) Build kiosk. (2) Calvary Cemetery yard waste. (3) Invasive Species.
- ❖ **Recreational Opportunities:** (1) Create car-top boatlaunch. (2) Park improvements.
- ❖ **Land Preservation Opportunities:** (1) Secure parkland. (2) Research easements and zoning.

NUTTS POND

- ❖ **Goal(s):** To improve sport fishing and nonmotorized/ recreational boating opportunities. To improve water quality.
- ❖ **Water Quality Improvements:** (1) Drainage study of four urban runoff outfalls. (2) Dredging near outfalls. (3) Shoreline stabilization.
- ❖ **Outreach/Education Opportunities:** (1) South Willow Street commercial lot maintenance. (2) Invasive species/Brazilian waterweed management.
- ❖ **Recreational Opportunities:** (1) Pond circuit trail/Rails- To-Trails project. (2) Boat ramp improvements.
- ❖ **Other:** Possible future Diagnostic/Feasibility Study in collaboration with the DES.

PINE ISLAND POND

- ❖ **Goal(s):** To maintain fishable/swimmable water quality standards. To improve fish habitat.
- ❖ **Water Quality Improvements:** (1) Assess sedimentation at north-end inlet. (2) Assess accelerated plant growth. (3) Implement streambank stabilization efforts at Cohas Brook.
- ❖ **Outreach/Education Opportunities:** (1) Aquatic plants. (2) Invasive Species. (3) Boating. (4) Fertilizer & home actions.
- ❖ **Recreational Opportunities:** (1) Fish passage at dam.
- ❖ **Other:** Develop a comprehensive watershed

STEVENS POND

- ❖ **Goal(s):** To improve water quality through a partnership with the Department of Transportation.
- ❖ **Water Quality Improvements:** (1) Improve I-93 runoff. (2) Assess erosion at headwaters.
- ❖ **Outreach/Education Opportunities:** (1) Build kiosk. (2) Invasive species.
- ❖ **Recreational Opportunities:** (1) Boat launch improvements. (2) Wetland boardwalk/trail creation & improvement.
- ❖ **Land Preservation Opportunities:** (1) Secure adjacent parkland.

An environmental consulting firm has recently been contracted to begin the design phase of several of these projects. Comprehensive Environmental (CEI) will begin working on the following projects:

- ❖ Final design for tributary II runoff/drainage improvements at Dorrs Pond.
- ❖ Final design for tributary II runoff/drainage improvements at Dorrs Pond.
- ❖ Final design for Crystal Lake beach drainage improvements.
- ❖ Final design for Corning Road drainage improvements at Crystal Lake.
- ❖ North-end drainage analysis (including total phosphorus modeling for subwatersheds) at Nutts Pond
- ❖ I-93 chloride loading study proposal preparation for Stevens Pond.

MEET YOUR POND EVENTS!

Do you see Manchester's urban ponds as life-less or "dead"? The truth is, they are abundant with life! Join the Urban Ponds Restoration Coordinator and members of the conservation commission for a meet your pond adventure. Walk the trails, investigate native and exotic vegetation and wildlife, and see how to sample water for chemical and biological parameters.

Throughout the summer Meet your Pond days have been occurring at all of Manchester's ponds. The final Meet your Pond day will be held at **McQuesten Pond** on **August 15th**. The pond activities are from **9:00-noon** and will commence at **Wolfe Park**. Dress accordingly and come Meet your Pond!

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT!
PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2002

Don't forget your camera while you're out enjoying your watershed this summer and fall! Photos must be taken at one of the seven Manchester urban ponds and the categories are **Nature/Scenic** and **People Enjoying the Watershed**. You can submit up to two photos in each category. Entries must be unmounted prints, 5" x 7" or larger. Winning photographs will be printed in the UPRP newsletter and posted at urban pond kiosks.

UPRP PHOTO CONTEST	
Name: _____	Address: _____
Phone: _____	E-Mail: _____
Photo Title (optional): _____	
Specific Photo Location (required): _____ Date of Photo: _____	
Why is this place or photo special to you? _____	

I understand that the UPRP cannot be responsible for loss or damage to photos. No rights to this photo are held by any other person, business, or organization. I own and will retain photo rights, but agree that the UPRP may freely publish and publicly display this photo, with credit to me, for various publicity purposes.	

POND POSSIBILITIES

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Nutts Pond. Photo by Jen Drociak

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